

AUSTRALIA'S LAST LINE OF DEFENCE?

Australia's Defence Department has been most embarrassed by the leak of a classified document which contains details of an updated version of the "Brisbane Line".

For those who do not know, the "Brisbane Line" was a proposed line for fall-back defence during World War II. This meant that allied forces were prepared to sacrifice the top part of Australia, so as to be adequately able to defend the rest of the country.

In this updated, and top secret guide, the modern fall-back line is proposed to be just above Newcastle, and extends across to just above Port Augusta in South Australia.

The Defence Department appears to be trying to disown the guide, known as "The Army Development Guide". Although the Department insists the Guide is out of date, it is still classified as "Top Secret".

Over the last two years, Nexus Magazine has received many pieces of information suggesting that there is a "hidden agenda" amongst the "Internationalists", whereby Indonesia will be 'allowed' to invade Australia. Interestingly enough, these morsels of information all hinted that Indonesia would be allowed to finally occupy the area of Australia above Newcastle.

All this would have to turn up just when I moved up north wouldn't it?

STOP PRESS: Recent developments in this area include the Chinese "invasion" of the Spratly Islands, an oil rich cluster, parts of which are under claim by Indonesia, Taiwan, Vietnam and others. All in all it is being considered the next "flashpoint" for the south pacific region. To add fuel to the fire, Indonesia is to buy a chunk of the former East German navy, including 39 warships, minesweepers, and landing craft.

(Source: *The Sunday Mail*, June 28th '92, & *The Australian*, July 24th, 1992),



GOVERNMENT LEVY TO CUT MISUSE OF MEDICINE?

A recent National Health Strategy Report has revealed that between 30,000 and 40,000 people are hospitalised every year due to prescription drugs. This figure is higher than the figure for hospital admissions due to car accidents!

According to the report, Australian doctors prescribe twice as many antibiotics per head of population as Sweden, and more than doctors in the UK, USA and Canada.

Hospital bills for drug misuse cost taxpayers nearly \$90 million a year, and the situation is considered so critical that the Federal Government is considering imposing a levy on medicine sales to fund an education campaign on prescription drugs.

Perhaps they should read the article on pages 21-24 of this issue of Nexus first.

(Source: *The Australian*, July 15th '92, p)

PATIENTS TO SUE DRUG COMPANIES

Hundred of Australians and several prominent law firms have combined forces to begin a historic legal action against the major drug companies which sell tranquilisers.

They plan to take representative action against drug companies includ-

ing Roche Products, Wyeth and Upjohn, for failing to warn people that their tranquilisers can be addictive. Brand names of these companies include Serepax, Valium, Ativan and Mogadon.

According to the National Health Survey, one in fifty Australians used tranquilisers every day for six months or more; another 750,000 Australians said they had taken tranquilisers in the two weeks before the survey.

Representatives from one of the law firms involved said the patients would sue for damages, claiming the drug companies did not research or inform

about problems of dependency and withdrawal.

This dramatic legal action follows what has been described as "the biggest law suit in British history", in which 17,000 people are suing three drug companies in the UK for alleged side effect from pills.

(Source: *The Sun-Herald*, June 21 '92)

TV NEWS - FACT OR FICTION?

The distinction between fact and fiction in television news was in danger of becoming meaningless, a communications expert warned.

Associate Professor Peter Putnis, the head of communication and media studies at Bond University, said TV stations could now use computers to alter moving pictures undetectably, and were misusing "file tape" to illustrate news segments.

Professor Putnis has called for stricter guidelines on the use of file tape, and says that part of the problem was that people were being filmed for one purpose but the film was being used for another.

NEW EVIDENCE LINKS CHLORINATED WATER TO CANCER

Chlorine, the chemical used to purify water supplies, has been linked to cases of rectal and bladder cancer. American

medical researchers say chlorine produces chemical bi-products which are responsible for at least 18% of rectal cancers and 9% of bladder cancers.

The study published in the American Journal of Public Health says the cancers can be linked to drinking, bathing and swimming in chlorinated water.

ON PHONE TAPS, THE FBI AND THE NSA

According to the *Washington Post* earlier this month (July), the FBI have a rather unusual gripe - that is they can't tap people's phones any more. It seems that the equipment used by the FBI does not work on fibre optic cables. So frustrated is the FBI that they want the Bush administration to force US telephone companies to install equipment that allows them to tap into every telephone in the country. What's more, is that the FBI wants the public purse to pay for these changes.

Now normally this information would not be made public, but someone leaked it to the media immediately.

One wonders whether the CIA or the NSA are having the same problem, and if so how did they overcome it in Australia, where we are using a fair bit of fibre-optics?

The NSA (National Security Agency) was founded by President Harry Truman during the "Cold War", to tap into the world's electronic transmissions to detect enemies of the USA.

The NSA uses the satellite listening bases such as Pine Gap to spy on an incredible number of telephone and facsimile transmissions. It owns the most powerful array of computers in the world, and can pick out specific conversations from the babble of international telecommunication traffic.

According to James Bamford's book on the NSA, *The Puzzle Palace*, the NSA employs at least 60,000 people and spends a modest \$13 billion per year.

The *Washington Post* reported that the NSA was also trying to ensure that government computers used a 'second rate computer security technology' so it could continue to monitor overseas

computer data transmissions.

Remember - just because you are not paranoid, it doesn't mean they aren't listening to you!

MI6 PULLS OUT OF "TOP SECRET" BASE NEAR DARWIN

The British secret service outfit MI6 has recently announced that it will close its top secret "radio relay station" which operates on a site adjacent to the Australian Defence Department's isolated Kowandi Radio Station, about 30km south of Darwin.

It was only a few weeks ago that British Prime Minister, John Major officially acknowledged the existence of MI6, which until then had been the worst kept secret in the world, (along with Boris Yeltsin's drinking).

A High Commission spokesman in Canberra has confirmed that the British were pulling out because it was being superseded by, wait for it, new technology.

Maybe this new technology is what the more intelligent "intelligence" organisations are, or will be using to tap phone networks which use fibre optic cables. (See previous item.)

(Source: *The Sun-Herald*, June 28, '92)

FORGED CARDS USED ON ATMS

Evidence has surfaced that money can be easily stolen from Automated Teller Machine using published information and an easily accessible machine costing several hundred dollars.

Every year thousands of customers complain to banks and building societies that money has been removed from their accounts at cash machines without their knowledge. Most banks deny that these "phantom" withdrawals are even possible, and avoid compensatory action as a result.

I am sure many readers are not surprised that

someone has found a way of forging some of these cards. If you have had money ripped off from your account, grab a copy of *New Scientist*, 4th July 1992, page 5, take it to your bank manager, tell it is now recognised as possible and demand the bank replace the money you gave them to look after.

(Ref: *New Scientist*, 4th July 1992)

MORE ON TV SUBLIMINALS

Brian Evans of Tantara Tek in Watford (UK) has filed a European patent application (#463787) suggesting how to use the TV to subliminally convey 'changes in mood' on a TV programme, or advert.

Mr Evans suggests that if TV screens were made to flicker at a rate of 75 hertz, either by scanning the cathode ray tube at this frequency, or by interrupting the back illumination for a liquid crystal display, then the eye will register this flicker peripherally, but not with direct viewing.

During the programme, the frequency would change, to emphasise changes in mood. According to Evans, this can heighten dramatic effect and stimulate peripheral curiosity. Another trick is to alter the flicker frequency in some parts of the picture, but not others.

(Source: *New Scientist*, 27 June '92)

NATIONAL SECURITY OR PLAIN OLD SUPPRESSION?

The 'Cold War' may have ended, but last year the Pentagon placed a record 774 US patent applications under



"I WANT TO SIGN ON FOR THE DOLE."

"Secrecy Orders". A secrecy order is imposed when the Pentagon believes the patent could harm national security by revealing technical secrets.

According to recently available data obtained under the Freedom of Information Act by the Federation of American Scientist, the US Federal Government has "gag" orders on nearly 6,000 inventions. Nearly three quarters of the 1991 invention, ie 506 out of 774 - were imposed on private companies.

In one case during the 1980s, a graduate student applied for a patent for an invention described in his doctoral dissertation. The government slapped a secrecy order on it before the student even had a chance to defend the dissertation before a committee of the university's faculty. The effectively meant that he could have been prosecuted for going ahead with his oral examination. Fortunately, the government relented and the student got his Ph.D.

(Source: *New York Times*, 23 May '92;
New Scientist 20 June '92)

FAULT OR DOUBLE FAULT IN CALIFORNIA

According to *New Scientist*, southern California is undergoing its most intense period of earthquake activity since settlers first began keeping records.

One geophysicist claims that the

region is witnessing the birth of a new fault system that could soon equal the infamous San Andreas fault.

The recent wave of earthquake activity started on June 28, with an earthquake of magnitude 7.4, centred in the Mojave Desert about 150km west of Los Angeles.

In the ten days since that event, the US Geological Survey's seismic monitoring system has recorded 5,000 earthquakes in the area!

(Source: *New Scientist* 18 July '92)

PATENT FOR SURVEILLANCE DEVICE SLIPS THROUGH NET

The British Ministry of Defence (MOD) has patented a system for covertly reading the number plates of cars at night.

Normally the MOD does not publicise this kind of research and vets all patent applications filed at the British Patent Office, but patent application # 2 248 994 seems to have slipped through the net. This means that anyone with access to a patent library anywhere in the world can examine the details of this system, which basically uses LEDs which generate long-wavelength infrared, ie up to 1000 nanometres, which is invisible to the human eye.

(Source: *New Scientist*, 4 July '92)

SOVIET NUCLEAR PLANT KILLED THOUSANDS

Move over Chernobyl, make way for the nuclear disasters that the Soviets did manage to "keep the media lid on".

According to a report from the Institute of Biophysics at the former Soviet Health Ministry in Chelyabinsk more than 8,000 people have died and 28,000 have been

'severely irradiated' as a result of dumping and disasters since 1948.

Since 1949, "no less than 150 million curies of radioactive substances have been discharged into the environment as a result of Mayak's activities" says the report. This is about the equivalent of three times the radiation leaked out by the Chernobyl disaster.

For example, between 1949 and 1956, some 76 million cubic metres of liquid waste were poured in the river affecting an immediate 124,000 people. And in 1957 and 1967, two "mini-Chernobyls" caused widespread deaths and increased leukemia cases.

(Source: *New Scientist*, 20 June '92)

AUSTRALIA'S PREHISTORY TO BE REWRITTEN?

The discovery of prehistoric pollen and charcoal off the Great Barrier Reef, may indicate that Australia was inhabited by humans 140,000 years ago.

Dr Peter Kershaw, a palynologist, or pollen expert at Monash University's Department of Geography and Environmental Science believes he has found signs of human disturbance in rainforest patters in a drill core from the edge of the continental shelf 80km east of Cairns.

The core covers the past 1.5 million years, and shows that around 140,000 years ago, a drier type of tropical rainforest in north east Queensland was subjected to an increase in fire frequency.

If Dr Kershaw's theory is correct, Australia's ancient past will have to be rewritten. The oldest Aboriginal site is at Kakadu, and is only 60,000 years old.

GERMAN POLICE KILLED ISRAELI ATHLETES AT MUNICH

Families of the 11 Israeli athletes who died at the Munich Olympics have obtained German documents showing that German police, and not PLO gunmen killed eight of them.

The Yediot Aharanot newspaper in Jerusalem said the new evidence, including pathologists' reports, proved



Sam Miller

only three of the Israelis were killed by the Palestinians in 1972.

(Source: *The Australian*, July 24 '92)

US DELIBERATELY SHOT DOWN IRANIAN AIRBUS?

In 1988, the USS Vincennes shot down an Iranian plane containing 290 people. It was described as a "tragic accident" by the Pentagon, who then proceeded to confer a medal on the ship's captain for this very same accident.

Are we surprised to learn recently that the Americans were well inside Iranian territorial waters, and knew full well that it was not a military plane?

"UNORTHODOX" MEDICINES TO LOSE REBATE

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) is setting new standards for general practice which will prevent doctors of unorthodox medicine from being able to claim Medicare rebates. The policy changes are due to take effect from January 1, 1994.

It will affect general practitioners who prescribe herbal remedies and unconventional allergy treatments, or practice iridology, naturopathy and chiropractics. It does not include acupuncture however.

(Source: *The Australian*, July 21 '92)

WEATHER CONTROL?

A method for altering a selected region of air above the Earth's surface was patented for a subsidiary of the Atlantic Richfield Co. Patent No. 4,686,605 was granted to Bernard Eastlund, a physicist and expert on oil field development who is a consultant for the oil company.

THE IMF AND THE REPUBLICS

To the applause of the world's leading mega-bankers, 15 newly independent republics emerging from the old USSR joined the International Monetary Fund in Washington in late April.

Out of the frying pan ...?

NATURAL MEDICINE IN THE USA - A WARNING TO AUSTRALIA!

Last issue Nexus reported on the raid on the well known and respected Tahoma Clinic in Kent, Washington - where FDA officials, together with S.W.A.T. Team style agents held staff and patients at gunpoint while they ransacked products and files. It turns out that this was no isolated incident, and even worse, looks as if it is just part of an escalating war upon "unconventional" medicines by the powerful drug companies.

For example, in October 1990, a posse of 11 FDA agents, 5 U.S. Marshals, and 4 heavily armed Oregon state police raided the office of Highland Laboratories in Mount Angel, Oregon. While company president Ken Scott was forcibly prevented from entering his own building, armed agents restrained the staff for four hours, forced them to print out company data, and ransacked the offices. The FDA search warrant called for the search and seizure of 9 products, however the agents seized 14 products, along with the labels, artwork and printing plates for nearly 200 products. They even seized the business records of other unrelated businesses that owner Ken Scott was involved in. No criminal or any other charges have been filed to date.

A sinister alliance has now become obvious between the AMA (American Medical Association), the FDA (Food & Drug Administration) and the pharmaceutical companies. According to *ACRES, USA* newspaper, it is a matter of public record that the FDA indulges in the following practices:

- Many of the so-called "research grants" that the FDA receives are 'donated' by the very drug companies that the FDA is supposed to be regulating.
- Mid- and upper-level FDA officials enjoy "revolving door" status when they leave the FDA, wherein they go to cushy, well-paying jobs in those very same drug companies they were supposed to have been regulating.
- Currently, 150 top FDA officials hold significant amounts of stock in the pharmaceutical companies they are supposed to be regulating.

This undeclared war on "unconventional" medicines has been followed up with the introduction of bills in Congress which make it difficult, if not impossible to obtain vitamins, mineral and herbs, and which legalise their search-and-seizure techniques.

There is a bill currently pending in the House called H.R. 3642 (written and sponsored by FDA allies Representative Henry A. Waxman, and Representative John Dingell) that would:

- Make vitamins, minerals and herbs unavailable except through prescription from Medical Doctors.
- Prevent food supplements from entering the country.
- Make it illegal for anyone to sell vitamins, mineral and herbs, with a fine of up to US\$1 million (yes, \$1 million) for each violation, plus a \$250,000 against the store.
- Permit the IRS to make collections.
- Permit the FDA not only to seize but to also destroy all vitamins, minerals and herbs found on the premises.
- Permit the FDA to inspect records, embargo and recall products, and assess civil penalties for "serious" violations with any judicial review.

Nexus was recently contacted by an international businessman who mentioned that a Bill identical in nature to the one above, has been passed in the UK, and that one similar was on the table in several European countries, Canada, the USA, and that one was being discussed for Australia.

One would hope that our TGA (Therapeutic Goods Administration) does not become unduly influenced by these same international drug companies. Then again, one might hope that we could have peace on earth.